



Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, Prosecutors,
other Law Enforcement Leaders, and
Violence Survivors Preventing Crime
and Violence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

As Economy Sinks, Law Enforcement Warns Child Abuse, Neglect On The Rise

Sheriff and Chief Say Home Visits Needed To Prevent Abuse, Crime

Klickitat County Sheriff Rick McComas and Burien Police Chief Scott Kimerer will meet in Olympia to raise concerns about rising cases of child abuse and neglect stemming from the flagging economy. Joining them will be Dr. Beth Harvey, a local pediatrician and President-elect of the Washington Chapter of the America Academy of Pediatrics, Representative Ruth Kagi and Senator Claudia Kauffman.

They will release a research report from the crime-prevention group FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *Washington*, which found that more children in Washington State may be at risk because of the recession.

The report, *Sounding the Alarm in a Weak Economy: Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect by Strengthening Families*, states that more families falling into poverty and staying there will likely increase the number of children who are abused and neglected in Washington State. Data from emergency rooms in Seattle and Spokane show an alarming increase in the number of children treated for serious non-accidental trauma.

The evidence shows that much abuse and neglect in the most vulnerable families can be prevented. Sharply reducing abuse and neglect in Washington will save billions of dollars, while greatly reducing the number of children who would otherwise grow up to become criminals.

The law enforcement leaders, all members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids *Washington*, will urge the state legislature to maintain funding for evidence-based home visiting programs.

WHO: Klickitat County Sheriff Rick McComas
Burien Chief of Police K. Scott Kimerer
Dr. Beth Harvey, M.D, American Academy of Pediatrics
Mary Ann Murphy, Partners with Families & Children, Spokane
State Senator Claudia Kauffman
State Representative Ruth Kagi

WHAT: News Conference

WHEN: Thursday, March 26
10 a.m.

WHERE: House Democratic Caucus Room
State Capitol Building
Olympia

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